

[Mr. G. Ravi Varma.]

(b) if so, what induced the Government to consider such a course of action ; and

(c) whether they have any idea at present to take such a step ?

Mr. N. Ramamurti : (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Mr. G. Ravi Varma : May I know from the member whether there was not a resolution to that effect to be moved by the official member in one of the sessions of the Council last year ?

Mr. N. Ramamurti : The resolution that should have been moved by the official member was to consider the future policy in the matter from the point of view of the desirability of forming a public limited company and was intended to ascertain the opinion of the House.

Waiting sheds at Alwaye and Parur.

70. *Mr. Paul A. Thaliath : Will the Government be pleased to state whether any representation has been received about the construction of waiting sheds at Alwaye and Parur for passengers who travel in the State Transport buses ?

Mr. N. Ramamurti : Yes ; the matter is receiving attention.

Mr. Paul A. Thaliath : May I know when Government will be able to come to a decision in this matter ?

Mr. N. Ramamurti : Very soon, Sir.

President : Has not something been done ?

Mr. N. Ramamurti : No, Sir. We are negotiating with the South Indian Railway Company.

State Transport Buses.

71. *Mr. K. Shahul Hameed : Will the Government be pleased to state the number of new buses put on the road for service by the State Transport Department during the year 1121 ?

Mr. N. Ramamurti : 35.

State Transport Buses.

72. *Mr. K. A. Raman Pillai : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) the number of State Transport buses in service at present throughout the entire State ;

(b) the number of State Transport buses in service in 1120 ;

(c) the number of buses added to the State Transport Service during 1121 ;

(d) what is the maximum seating capacity in the ordinary transport bus ;

(e) the number of passengers that are at present actually being accommodated on an average at one trip at one time in the transport bus ;

(f) the number of persons who died as the result of bus accidents of transport service from the beginning of 1120 up to the end of Edavom 1121 ;

(g) the number of persons who sustained serious injuries by bus accidents of transport service from the beginning of 1120 up to the end of Edavom 1121 ;

(h) whether any steps have been taken by the Transport Department to relieve the congestion in the bus service ; and

(i) if so, what those steps are ?

Mr. N. Ramamurti : (a) 135.

(b) 104.

(c) 35.

(d) Ranges from 20 to 32 according to the type of the vehicles.

(e) Within the limits prescribed in (d) above, plus a limited number of standing passengers.

(f) 7.

(g) 15.

(h) Yes.

(i) Increasing the fleet by the addition of extra vehicles, recently purchased.

Mr. K. A. Raman Pillai : May I know from the member whether more passengers are not taken now even from the very start ?

President : Order, order. I think I must make an announcement. I find that there is a tremendous amount of feeling on the subject of overcrowding. I have ordered that from the 1st Chingom 1122, 10 or 12 seats according to the statistics with the Transport Department may be reserved in each bus and that no person should be admitted more than the exact number allowed, so that in no bus throughout the State there will be over-crowding. A certain number of seats will be reserved for the intermediate passengers. Supposing 60 people can be accommodated in a bus, about 10 or 12 seats will be reserved for the intermediate passengers. Subject to that about 40 people will be allowed from the starting point. If people do not get seats they will have to suffer the consequence. When I asked the other House about this there was a division of opinion on the matter. Some members said that no limit should be placed. Other members felt differently. So, subject to what

[President.]

may happen in the course of the General Discussion or in the course of the discussion on the Transport Department, I have asked the Director of Transport to make it impossible for any bus to admit any one person more than the number provided for. After obtaining the opinion of this honourable house, Government will come to a conclusion. But at present, I wish to make it clear that unless very powerful grounds are shown to the contrary, no one person more than the admitted number will be allowed to be carried in a bus. Government want to do that and they are in a better position to do so because they are getting some 110 extra vehicles from Calcutta. Those vehicles also will be put into the services. In one particular speech it was mentioned that the one topic for discussion all over India was about the mismanagement of the Transport Department, and over-crowding in buses. If that is the general topic of discussion all over India, one does not want to keep on that conversation. It is because people want to get into the buses that there is over-crowding. If people are willing to put up with inconveniences, Government have no objection. People must suffer the inconveniences having allowed them to come in. So, subject to what may fall from the honourable members during the time of the General Discussion and the discussion on the Transport Department, orders have been given to the Director of State Transport Department not to allow over-crowding in any bus from 1st Chingom.

Mr. K. A. Raman Pillai : May I know whether the bus accidents were due to rash driving and negligence on the part of the drivers or due to over-crowding?

Mr. N. Ramamurti : Some were due to negligence and rash driving on the part of drivers and some due to the negligence of the pedestrians. I do not think there was any accident due to over-loading.

Mr. K. A. Raman Pillai : May I know how many were due to negligence and rash driving on the part of the drivers?

Mr. N. Ramamurti : I regret I have not got the statistics with me now.

Mr. K. Shahul Hameed : Answer to part (f) says that there were 7 deaths due to accidents. May I know whether the Director has enquired into the causes for these deaths?

Mr. N. Ramamurti : Yes, Sir.

Mr. K. Shahul Hameed : May I know the result of his enquiries?

Mr. N. Ramamurti : In cases where it was due to the negligence on the part of drivers action has been taken. Where pedestrians have been injured, compensation was paid to the people concerned.

Mr. K. Shahul Hameed : May I know the action taken by the Director of Transport with regard to deaths caused by the negligence on the part of drivers ?

Mr. N. Ramamurti : The drivers have been dismissed and the Inspector General of Police has been directed to frame charges against them and conduct cases in courts of law.

Accidents to State Transport Buses.

73. ***Mr. K. Shahul Hameed :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) the number of accidents to State Transport Buses during the year 1121 ;

(b) the number of casualties, if any ; and

(c) whether the department has enquired into the cause of these accidents ?

Mr. N. Ramamurti : (a) 21.

(b) 5.

(c) Yes.

Overload in the State Transport Buses.

74. ***Mr. K. Shahul Hameed :** Will the Government be pleased to state the measures taken for checking overload in buses operated by the State Transport Department ?

Mr. N. Ramamurti : It is proposed to increase the number of vehicles by about 50 per cent. on the present routes within the next four months for which purpose additional vehicles have been purchased.

Trivandrum-Nedumangad Bus Service.

75. ***Mr. K. Shahul Hameed :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Director of Transport has received any representation from the public of Nedumangad praying that the Trivandrum-Nedumangad bus service may be extended to Pazhakutti, the heart of the town ; and

(b) the action taken thereon ?

Mr. N. Ramamurti : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise in view of answer to part (a).

State Transport Buses running between Alwaye and Parur.

76. ***Mr. Paul A. Thaliath :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Transport buses were running 9 times a day between Alwaye and Parur on any date in Edavom ;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, whether the same number is still continued ; and

(c) if the answer to (a) is in the negative, when the reduction took place and the cause for such reduction ?